

# The National Tribune

WASHINGTON, D. C., APRIL, 1879.

## TERMS TO SUBSCRIBERS, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

POSTAGE PREPAID.

One copy—One Year	50 Cents
Five Copies, "	\$2.00
Ten copies, (with extra copy to getter-up of Club,)	4.00

For every fifteen subscribers we receive from any party we will forward our "NATIONAL TRIBUNE Clock" free, said party paying express charges. He may send a few names at a time, at 50 cents each, and when the fifteen are made up the clock will be forwarded.

A specimen number of our paper sent free, on request.

Terms for advertising furnished upon application.

N. B. See our article in another column in regard to forming clubs to procure "THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE clock," in combination with THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE.

**To Subscribers.**—When changing your address please give former as well as present address, with County and State.

**Take Notice.**—In sending money for subscriptions by mail, never inclose the currency except in a registered letter. A postal money order or a draft on New York is the best form of remittance. Losses by mail will be most surely avoided if these directions are followed.

No responsibility is assumed for subscriptions paid to agents, which must be at the risk of the subscriber.

Communications, subscriptions, and letters upon all business matters relating to THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, should be addressed to—

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE CO.,  
Washington, D. C.

### Notice.

Subscriptions hereafter must begin April, as our large January, February, and March issues are exhausted. April numbers sent gratuitously on application.

### Renew Subscriptions.

Many subscriptions expire in April. Remember this, and be ready to renew them. Also make up clubs with your friends. You like the paper, and are ready to recommend it to your friends. With a little effort every subscriber could get at least half a dozen new names.

### Soldiers' Inquiries.

Soldiers who wish to inquire in regard to their officers, surgeons, comrades, &c., can have an advertisement of not exceeding four lines inserted in this paper for fifty cents, which you can send in postage stamps. Forward it, and the advertisement will go into the next issue.

### Trusses.

The free gift of the Government to all soldiers ruptured during their terms of service will be soon ready for delivery. They will go from the Surgeon General's office to the Examining Surgeons, and will be fitted to the applicant.

There has been some little delay in their manufacture, which, however, will soon be removed. We will send the necessary blank and instructions to secure a truss on receipt of stamp for answer.

### Write Plainly.

Too frequently we are greatly bothered to read letters and communications for our paper, and we would ask that our friends should be more particular in this respect. We don't expect the soldier who swings an ax or follows a plow to "sling ink" as can a New York book-keeper, but, "boys," do try to write plainly, even if it takes you much more time to do so. And to be more careful in giving your post-office address, county, and State. Would you believe, we receive letters not unfrequently in which neither the name of the writer, nor the post-office, county, or State is given. Some of you who have written for papers or sent funds may have done this, and we are blamed because you do not hear from us. BE CAREFUL.

### The New Control.

As was announced in the March number, "THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE" has passed into other hands. Now, it is managed and owned by "The National Tribune Company," and is published at No. 916 F street, (office, room 17) Washington, D. C. Address all letters and communications accordingly. In making this transfer, by Messrs. Lemon & Co., of the new paper, the soldier and general reader may be assured the paper will receive new life and possess additional usefulness. The friends of Mr. Lemon, who are found all over the country, from ocean to ocean and from the lakes to the gulf, are informed that, in making this transfer, it is only with a view of devoting his attention more absolutely and specially to his extensive business with the Departments. He will still be an adviser and counselor as to the management of "THE TRIBUNE." This paper, be it understood, is the soldiers' organ, their mouth-piece, their vindicator and advocate, and it leans upon them alone for support and approbation. We propose to use every means in our power to make it a most interesting and useful publication, whose arrival every month will be looked forward to with interest. On taking this "fresh start," soldiers and friends, give us a "big lift" in the way of new subscriptions. Every one can take "THE TRIBUNE," and every one ought to. Think of a bright, pleasant, essential newspaper one year for fifty cents, the price of two bushels of corn or a few dozen eggs. Especially do we call on the boys of the West—where our heaviest subscriptions come from—who fought under Grant, Sherman, Thomas, McPherson, Schofield, Logan, and others to roll up our list. Remember, the more subscribers we get the more influence we will secure.

### The Policy of Paying the Bounty Debt.

Two motives actuate nations and men when called upon for decisions in regard to their worldly affairs—the one, *principle*; the other, *policy*. The former springs from Christian virtues—an innate love of justice and generous characteristics; the latter, from ignoble considerations, having their origin in our lower natures, looking only to self-preservation as the essential to be maintained, at the sacrifice even of honor. Candor compels us to assert that we believe the millenium is yet far distant, and that the great mass of men are still in the leading-strings of policy, tempered at times, happily, by a coloring of justice. Let us admit, for a moment, that America, in her legislation, is governed solely and distinctly by this motive; that justice is totally ignored in framing her legal statutes. Now, what would POLICY dictate as to her legislation for her soldiers? Surely, to pay what has been promised them either by clear agreement or manifest implication. Can the United States—could any nation having in view the maintenance of her prowess, afford to lessen the patriotism of nearly one million of men, by denying their honest claims for money earned through toil, suffering, and self-sacrifice? Is it not the most short-sighted and suicidal policy to trifle with, ignore, and abuse the heroism of the nation? Pray, who are these men—who were they? Not serfs or slaves, driven, perhaps, at the point of the bayonet and forced to fight at the behest of a despot, but free-born, intelligent American citizens—the private, very many times, knowing far more than the captain accidentally commanding him—who, on an emergency involving the life of the nation, left college-halls, machine-shops, the fields and farm-houses, every department of business, and took upon them the hardships of a soldier's life, that the Union might live. We repeat it, Can the Government treat with contempt its very life, without suffering therefor? Is it willing to sap its very foundations by ignoring justice to the men who saved it? In 1861, we were very much in the position of a man who had fallen into a deep, rapid, running stream, and being unable to swim, lustily cries out to one standing on the shore, "Help me! help me! for God's sake help me! I'll give you everything I own in the world, to save me." In 1879, we are the same man, standing in his counting-house, surrounded by his millions, and haggling with his savior about paying him a *dollar*. It is utterly astonishing—the ingratitude we manifest—and ingratitude is a crime which, though not punished by statutes,

is nevertheless a crime of the darkest hue. Again: Every nation is strong or weak, according to the spirit of its laws. If a millionaire on Wall street is scrupulously paid, while a farmer (soldier) in Wisconsin remains unpaid and neglected, an exciting sore is produced upon the body politic. The farmer soldiers all over the country observe this unjust legislation, and their patriotic pride in their country is deeply wounded. Better, ten thousand times better, for the best interests of the country, that the few hundreds of millionaires and capitalists of our great cities were sunk forever, with their treasures, into the bottom of the great deep, than the hundreds of thousands of our brave farmers, mechanics, and artisans should be alienated in their affections for their country through gross neglect and culpable injustice. Do we imagine that never again will the country need the heroism of those who bear the musket, to save us from internal foes or foreign invasions? Do we propose to resort in the future to drafts, the reliance of despots, to raise an army, or will we depend on our glorious citizen soldiers? For the reasons herein mentioned, and for others which might be adduced, we believe that even the narrowest policy would dictate prompt justice to our soldiers.

### Pensions to Mexican Soldiers.

The conquest of Mexico—for such it really was—by the handful of soldiers numbering, all told, we believe not eighteen thousand men actively marching and fighting at any one time under Scott and Taylor in 1847, will ever be noted by the historian as among the most wondrous of the triumphs of modern arms; and the result of the campaigns of these generals, eventuating in the surrender of vast territories, far larger, each of them, than a half dozen of any of our Atlantic States, containing millions of acres of valuable agricultural land and mineral wealth to an almost fabulous amount, lend glory and honor to the heroes who were the authors of these acquisitions. Leaving out, then, any question as to rewarding bravery and recompensing for death, wounds, or disease, the soldiers of the Mexican war have given a *quid pro quo* ten thousand times over for all that they ask of the Government. The real cost of the war was a mere bagatelle as to the pay of troops, for transportation, munitions of war, &c., and but a few millions were paid by our ambassador, (Mr. Trist,) who negotiated the treaty of peace with Mexico. It was a splendid bargain, and obtained, too, at a time when needed by every consideration of public interest. It is a fact in history, perhaps not generally known, that Mexico was about ceding the entire California Territory, Upper and Lower, to England about the time of the commencement of our war, but Uncle Samuel was too nimble for John Bull, and grasped the prize. But, to return to the Mexican Pension Bill. Now, there is an expression frequently used now-a-days, which is more expressive than elegant, viz., "There's a nigger in the wood-pile somewhere." Now, the special gentleman of color who killed that bill was not Jeff. Davis, as many may suppose, but the Hon. Moses Moneybags, who lives on Fifth avenue, New York, and has ten millions invested in United States 4 percents. Moses abominates all these bills. He swears ustily they will "injure the Government credit." He attends every session of Congress from its commencement till its close, and opposes every measure which does not "sustain the public credit." Now, we think the Government sustains its credit in a very important sense by paying just and honorable debts to all its citizens, including its best and bravest—its soldiers; but Moses and Jay Gould and the "New York Tribune" think that a soldier has no rights a bondholder is bound to respect. "Pshaw! what's the use of paying these miserable soldiers," they cry. But notwithstanding all this, "boys," no, not "boys," noble old veterans, we feel confident that Congress will do you justice ere twelve months roll over, despite the howls of the New York Tribune and all such mercenary sheets.

### Soldiers, Write for Your Paper.

If you have anything interesting to say, write us. Your essays, anecdotes, &c., may not be in very good shape for publishing, but they will be revised, if necessary. Write for your paper.